

### Description

---

- 10.1.00 This document represents the recommended Design Guidelines for Health Facilities in NSW (HFG). They may be referred to as 'the HFG' or 'these Guidelines' through the text.

This issue of NSW HFG in an electronic database format is the first step in updating the current paper-based guidelines. It covers general guideline clauses plus a set of unit-specific guidelines for nine key units. It sets the directions for NSW Health to update further HFG in this format.

- 10.2.00 Generally designs that depart from these Guidelines will not be approved by the Department of Health unless clear patient/service benefits can be demonstrated and justified.

### Background

---

- 10.3.00 The development of these Guidelines in an electronic format was made possible by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services' contribution of the Guidelines database developed by Health Projects International in 2000.

This contribution has allowed NSW Health to further develop and refine the database and guideline process in the production of an initial suite of priority Health Facility Guidelines to meet NSW requirements.

The development of these Guidelines and enhancement of the database supporting their production has been undertaken with a view towards the development of National Facility Guidelines that would be endorsed and applicable in all Australian States and New Zealand.

Using an electronic database is particularly appropriate for maintaining the currency of the guidelines and helping to avoid duplication. It will also assist in the eventual translation of the Guidelines to a web-based format.

### Objectives

---

- 10.4.00 These Guidelines have been developed on the basis that provision of appropriate physical environments that support the delivery of high standards of care will enhance the quality of patient care.
- 10.5.00 These Guidelines provide for a reasonable, safe and affordable standard of care as determined by NSW Health. They do not cover management practices beyond their influence on design.

The main aims of these Guidelines are to:

- + Establish acceptable standards for the design of Health Care Facilities;
- + Achieve affordable solutions for the planning and design of Health Care Facilities;
- + Maintain public confidence in the standard of Health Care Facilities;
- + Provide general guidance to designers seeking information on the special needs of typical Health Care Facilities;
- + Promote the design of Health Care Facilities with due regard for the safety, privacy and dignity of patients, staff and visitors;
- + Eliminate design features that result in unacceptable practices;
- + Update Guidelines to meet current clinical practice and standards;

## Part A - Introduction and Instructions for Use

- + Eliminate duplication between various Guidelines.
- + Minimise recurrent costs and encourage operational efficiencies.

10.6.00 The design of a facility must support the model of care for service delivery and the associated Operational Policies.

Prior to the commencement of a design, it is essential that the following are defined and approved for the Unit or Facility:

- + The Service Plan;
- + Operational Policies;
- + The list of activities to be accommodated;
- + Health Planning Units/Functional Units;
- + Schedules of accommodation;
- + Functional relationships, external and internal;
- + Key planning principles.

These will generally be set out in the planning brief for the project. Refer to Part B and Part C for further details.